

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14457 071722Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OGEN, IT
SUBJ: ARRANGEMENT FOR POPE PAUL'S FUNERAL

1. AN ASSEMBLY OF CARDINALS PRESENT IN ROME MET "INFORMALLY"
ON AUGUST 7 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR POPE PAUL'S
FUNERAL. ALTHOUGH THEIR DECISIONS WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED
"OFFICIALLY" UNTIL THE ASSEMBLY MEETS "FORMALLY" ON
AUGUST 8, A VATICAN SPOKESMAN PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
"INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY" INFORMATION.

2. THE POPE'S REMAINS, WHICH ARE NOW ON VIEW AT CASTAL-
FANDOLFO, WILL BE BROUGHT TO ST. PETER'S BASILICA ON
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 9. THEY WILL LIE IN STATE
IN THE BASILICA ON AUGUST 10 AND 11. A STATE FUNERAL
(TO WHICH FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WILL BE INVITED) WILL
TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12. POPE PAUL VI WILL
BE INTERRED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FUNERAL SERVICE IN THE
CRYPT OF ST. PETER'S THEREAFTER, NINE COMMEMORATIVE
FUNERAL MASSES WILL BE SAID ON NINE SUCCESSIVE DAYS.
WE WILL CONFIRM FOREGOING ARRANGMENTS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

3. EMBASSY HAS RESERVED A SUITE AND A NUMBER OR SINGLES
AND DOUBLES AT THE HOTEL EXCESIOR FOR AUGUST 11 AND
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12 ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS FOR USE BY US DELEGATION.
WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY THE VATICAN WILL PERMIT
ON FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, BUT NOTE THAT DELEGATIONS FOR
POPE JOHN XXIII'S FUNERAL WERE LIMITED TO FOUR. THE
VATICAN IS EXPECTED TO ADVISE THE SPECIAL ENVOY'S
OFFICE OF FUNERAL ARRANGMENTS ON AUGUST 8. HOLMES

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